

My Lord Marquis
O F
ARGYLL
HIS
S P E E C H
U P O N T H E
S C A F F O L D,

the 27 of May 1661.

*As it was spoken by himself, and written
in Short-hand by one that was present.*

Many will expect that I should speak of many things, and according to their several Opinions and Dispositions, so will their Expectations be from me, and constructions of me, but I resolve to disappoint many; For I came not hither to justifie my self, but the Lord, who is holy in all his ways and righteous in all his Works, Holy and Blessed is his Name; neither came I to condemn others: I know many will expect, that I will speak against the hardness of the Sentence pronounced against me, but I will say nothing to it; I bless the Lord I pardon all men, as I desire to be pardoned of the Lord my self, Let the will of the Lord be done, that is all I desire.

I hope that ye will have more charity to me now, then ye would have had at an other time, since I speak before the Lord, to whom I must give an account very shortly; I know very well that my words have had but very little weight with many, and that many have mistaken my words and actings both: Many have thought me to be a great enemy to these great works that have of late been brought to pass; but do not mistake me good People, I speak it in the presence of the Lord, I entered not upon the work of Reformation

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tion, with any design to advantage my self, or prejudice to the King and his Government, or Person, as my Will which was written in the year 1655, and thereafter was delivered to a Friend, in whose hands it yet remaineth, can shew. As for these Calumnies which have gone abroad on me, I bless God I know them to be no more; And as I go to make a Reckoning to my God, I am free to any of these concerning the Kings Person or Government, I was real and cordial in my desires to bring the King home, and in my endeavours for him when he was at home, and I had no correspondence with the Adversaries Army, nor any of them the time His Majestie was in Scotland, nor had I any accession to his late Majesties horrid and execrable Murder, by counsel or knowledge of it, or any other manner of way; This is a Truth, as I shall answer to my Judge; and all the time his Majesty was in Scotland, I was still endeavouring his Advantage, my Conscience beareth me witness in it, that is for that.

At this he turned about and said, I hope Gentlemen ye will all remember these.

I Confesse, many look on my condition as a suffering condition, but I bless the Lord, that he who hath gone before me hath troden the wine press of the Fathers Wrath, by whose sufferings, I hope, that my Sufferings shall not be eternal, I bless him that hath taken away the sting of my sufferings: I may say, that my Charter was sealed the day, for the Lord hath said to me, Son be of good cheer, thy sins are freely forgiven thee, and so I hope my sufferings shall be easie; and ye know the Scripture saith, That the Captain of our Salvation was made perfect through sufferings.

I shall not speak much to these things, I am condemned for, lest I should seem to condemn others. It is well known, it is only for Complayance, which is the epidemical fault of the Nation, I wish the Lord may pardon them.

I say there was never an expression in my Submission sent to the Parliament of the contagion of the times, which may by some be misconstrued, as if I had intended thereby to lay an imputation upon the Work of Reformation, but I declare I intended no such thing, but it was only in relation to the corruption and failings of men, occasioned by the prevalency of the Usurping Power.

Now Gentlemen, I think there are three sorts of People that take up much of the World, and of the Nation: There are first the openly profain; and truly I might say, though I have been a Prisoner, yet have not had mine ears shut, I hear assuredly, that Swearing, Drinking and Whoring were never more common, never more countenanced then now they are; and truly if Magistrats were here, I would say to them, if they lay freely forth their power for the glorifying of God, by the restraining of these they would fare the better; if they continue in not restraining of it, they will fare the worse; I will say no more, but either let People shun Profanity, or Magistrats restrain it, or assuredly the wrath of God will follow on it. Others, they are not openly profain every one will not allow that, but yet they are careless in that matter, if things go well as to their private interests, they care not whether Religion or the Kirk of God sink or swim; but whatever they think, God hath laid engagements upon Scotland, we are tyed by Covenants to Religion and Reformation, these that were then unborn are engaged to it, and in our Baptism we are ingaged to it, and it paseth the power of any under-

under Heaven to absolve a man from the Oath of God, for which Oath
presently brought here this day ; they deceive themselves, and it may be would
deceive others, otherwise, (but I will caveat this). lest people would think this
an instigation of Rebellion from me, but they are very far in the wrong that
think so, and that Religion and Loyalty are not consistent, if any man think
otherwile, Religion is not to be blamed, but they : It is true, it is the duty
of every Christian to be Loyal, yet I think the Order of things is as well
to be observed as their Natures ; the order of Religion, as well as the Nature
of it ; Religion must not be the Coak-boat, it must be the Ship ; God must
have what is his, as well as Cæsar what is his, and these are the best Subjects
that are the best Christians, and that I am looked on as a Friend to Refor-
mation is my Glory.

There are an other sort that are truly Godly, and to these I must say, what
I fear, and truly every one hath reason to fear, it is good to fear evil ; it is
true, the Lord may prevent it, but if he do not, I see little
probability of it. These times are like to be very suffering times,
or very sinning times, and let Christians make their choise, there is a
sad Dilemma in the busyness, sin or suffer ; and truly he that would choise
the better party, will choise to suffer ; Others there are, that will choise to sin,
will not escape suffering, they shall suffer, but it may be, not as I do here ;
(turning him to the Maiden when he spoke it) but worse ; mine is Temporal
but theirs shall be Eternal, and when I shall be singing, they shall be howling ;
beware therefore of sinning, what ever ye are aware of, especially in these
times : Yet I cannot say of my own Condition, but the Lord in his providence
hath minded mercy to me, even in this World, for if I had been more favour-
ably dealt with, I fear I might have been overcome with Tentations, as many
others are, and I fear many more shall be, I wish the Lord may prevent it,
and so should have gone out of the World with a more polluted Conscience,
then through the Mercy of God now I have : And hence, my condition is
such now, as when I am gone will be seen not to besuch as many did imagine ;
It is fit God take me away before I fall in these Tentations, yet blessed be his
Name that I am keepeed both from present evils and evils to come.

Turning about, he spake those to Mr. Hut- chison, and then spake to the People.

Some may expect that I may regrate my own Condition, but truly I neither
grudge nor repine, nor do I desire any revenge : And I declare, I do not
repent my going to London ; for I alwise rather had suffered any thing than
lye under such reproaches as I did : I desire not that the Lord should judge any
nor do I judge any, but my self ; I wish as the Lord hath pardoned me, so he
may pardon them in this and other things, and what they have done to me
may never meet them in their Accounts. I have no more to say, but to beg
the Lord, that since I goaway, that they may be blessed that stayeth behind.

His

all won, immediately before his
bit. He got a Black, after his
Doublet was off, were hef.

I Befare you Gentlemen, and all that heare me this day, to take this
And I wish that all who feele me might hear me, that now when I am ent-
ering to my Eternity, and am to appear before my Judge, and as I define Sal-
vation, and do expect eternal Salvation and happiness from him ; from my
church to my Scaffold I am free from any accusation by my knowledge, concerning
Council or any other way to his late Majesties Death, and I pray the Lord
preserve his present Majesty, and to pour his best Blessings upon his Person
and Government, and the Lord give him good and faithfull Counsellors.

and running about to his Friends, be said,